

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GW, GE

SUBJECT: THE NOLLAU AFFAIR

1. DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 20, WITH THE GUILLAUME SPY CASE STILL FRESH IN THE PUBLIC MEMORY, AN ECONOMIC MAGAZINE OF SMALL REPUTATION PUBLISHED IN COLOGNE, "CAPITAL", ANNOUNCED THAT ITS NEXT EDITION WOULD REPORT THAT GUENTHER NOLLAU, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE FOR PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION WHO CAME FROM THE DDR IN 1950, WAS SUSPECTED BY CIA OF BEING AN EAST GERMAN AGENT. NOLLAU REQUESTED A COURT INJUNCTION FORBIDDING PUBLICATION OF THE ARTICLE, AND, ALTHOUGH THE INJUNCTION WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING, "CAPITAL" REFRAINED FROM PUBLISHING THE ARTICLE IN THE PROMISED ISSUE, BUT SAID RATHER IT WOULD PUBLISH IT AT A LATER TIME.

2. THE DECISION NOT TO PUBLISH FOLLOWED A CATEGORICAL DENIAL BY THE USG (SEE STATE 107847) THAT NOLLAU WAS UNDER EITHER INVESTIGATION OR SUSPICION AND A DENIAL FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS SUSPICIOUS OF NOLLAU. ON THE WEEKEND OF MAY 26, "CAPITAL" DECIDED THAT IT WOULD NEVER PUBLISH THE ARTICLE AND PUBLISHED A SHORT STATEMENT WHICH READ IN PART AS FOLLOWS: "NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KNOWLEDGE GIVES RISE TO SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THE

RELIABILITY OF THE PAPER WHICH HAD BEEN DESCRIBED AS A PRIVATE STUDY OF THE CIA. IN VIEW OF THE STATEMENTS OF THE PARTY CONCERNED AND THE STRONG DENIALS OF THE FRG AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, "CAPITAL" IS NOT GOING TO PUBLISH THE PROMISED ARTICLE ON DR. NOLLAU". THE MAGAZINE HAS ALSO APOLOGIZED TO NOLLAU AND THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, SIMONEIT, HAS OFFERED HIS RESIGNATION. NEVERTHELESS, NOLLAU IS SUING "CAPITAL" FOR DM 100,000.

COMMENT: IT IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE TIME, IN THE WAKE OF THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR AND THE RESIGNATION OF BRANDT, THAT A MAGAZINE SO LITTLE-KNOWN COULD HAVE CAUSED THE STIR OVER NOLLAU. THE MATTER HAS BEEN FRONT PAGE NEWS AND BEEN GIVEN WIDE TV COVERAGE FOR A WEEK NOW AND IS THE COVER STORY IN DER SPIEGEL OF 27 MAY. EVEN IF THE NOLLAU AFFAIR NOW DIES, AS IT NO DOUBT WILL UNLESS FURTHER INFORMATION IS BARED, THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE SUCH FOR A LONG TIME THAT REPORTS OF SPIES IN WEST GERMANY, WHETHER ACCURATE OR NOT, WILL BE GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION DESPITE CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S WARNING AGAINST "SPY HYSTERIA".

HILLENBRAND

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